

He's Jealous – Are You?

1. Intro: Stupid Computer, Stupid Guitar, Stupid Phone (good things)
2. “You can carry the measure of His Presence that you’re willing to jealously guard.” - Bill Johnson
3. ^{NIV} **James 4:5** Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?
 - a. *Phthonon epipothei* – φθόνον ἐπιποθεῖ Yearn for to the point of envy/jealousy.
 - b. “The Spirit he has caused to dwell in us is deeply jealous.” - Friberg
4. He’s jealous, are you?
 - a. Youtube comedians and rated R movies...
 - b. Shouldn’t we reciprocate that same jealous yearning for Him! Don’t we *want* to discard any little thing that offends him or quenches the Spirit or grieves him? I’m not saying we *should* – that’s true. I’m saying that if He’s our treasure, than we’re going to *want* to know what pleases him and what displeases him. Don’t you long for His fellowship?
5. Wesley’s Experience
 - a. **John Wesley, Journal, January 1, 1739** - "Mr. Hall, Kinchin, Ingham, Whitefield, Hutchins and my brother Charles were present at our love-feast in Fetter Lane, with about sixty of our brethren. About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of his Majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.'"
6. Shawn’s Quote
 - a. “We want a god we can fully understand because then it is somewhat under our control.”
 - b. A God we can scientifically catalogue is predictable – even manageable. But a transcendent God beyond our understanding involves mystery and uncertainty.
7. Some don’t like the emphasis on experience.
 - a. “We need to simply will obedience and not worry about our feelings.” That’s a half true statement – we do need to will obedience, but it would be foolishness not to recognize that the goal is more than duty – the goal is love. The goal isn’t mere obedience. The goal is joyful obedience. The goal isn’t to perform some tasks. The goal is to know Christ.
8. **Mark 12:24 – Scripture and Power**
 - a. Jesus said to the Sadducees in **Mark 12:24** that they were wrong because they didn’t know two things – the Scriptures and the power of God.
 - b. *Scripture* – some of us haven’t diligently set ourselves to treasuring the Scriptures and letting them transform our way of thinking.
 - c. *Power* – others of us don’t want anything but a *mental* faith. If it’s supra-rational, we’re not interested. If it’s known in the subconscious or in visions or dreams or miracles or any other myriad of non-linear ways – anything deeply experiential – then it’s *perhaps tolerable* for someone else, but most certainly not desirable for me.
 - d. But Jesus says that we need both intimate knowledge of God’s Book AND God’s power. We need them paired. Deep knowledge of God and deep experience of God.
 - e. Ireneaus’ Two Hands – one of the early pastors of the church – called the Word and the Spirit the two hands of the Christian. The danger if we don’t have both seems to be that we’ll either be a form of religion devoid of Gospel power, or we’ll be zealous and excited, but not about the Biblical

Christ. *Form without power on the one hand and zeal without knowledge on the other hand are two ditches we must avoid.* We must know both the Scriptures and the Power of God.

9. Steward What You Got, Receive More

- a. "You treasure something that God says, and that builds a foundation for greater revelation. Another way to attract revelation is to obey what we know." --Bill Johnson
- b. God doesn't wish to bring us into judgment. More light means more responsibility. If we haven't been faithful with the light we've received, why would he heap judgment on us by continuing to give us more and more? He loves us! He waits until we've learned faithfulness with what we already have to give us something else.

10. Wimber on Obedience

- a. **John Wimber – The Way In is The Way On, p. 41-42** - "Jesus says in John 14:15 'If you love Me, you will obey what I command.' That's a simple statement isn't it? If you love, then you'll obey. Obedience flows out of the depth of love we have for the Lord. You might ask, 'How much obedience is enough?' Then I'll ask you, 'How much do you love your Lord? How much reward do you want? How much peace or joy? Frankly, I can't get enough. I started out not needing much obedience or blessing, but as my love for Jesus grew, I became an addict. I have found that the older I get the more I learned to deeply love the things of God. The more I see of God, the more I see the things of God worked out in life. I find that I want to be with Him even more. Consequently, I find myself becoming, by God's grace, a more obedient person as I prepare to spend eternity with Him."

11. Tending the Fire

- a. Paul told Timothy to stir up/rekindle/fan into flame the Holy Spirit which he received when Paul laid his hands on Timothy (**2 Tim 1:6**). There are lifeways that tend/stir up/fan into flame the fire of God that has been graciously given us. This is what I mean by "jealously guarding the measure of God's Spirit that we have." I mean being careful to do what draws the Presence of Jesus and to avoid what quenches or grieves him.
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12. Sin and Repentance (following Jesus is a *way of repentance*)

- a. We still commit sins from time to time – so when we become aware of sin we must immediately confess it to God, receive His forgiveness at the foot of the cross, and then make any reparations that are appropriate. But I believe if we knowingly persist in sin that we dramatically damage our soul's communion with God's Spirit.

13. Holy Spirit Wifi (Isaiah 59:1-2)

¹Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

14. Song: Can You Hear Me Now?

15. Conclusion

- a. He is jealous for you, are you jealous for Him?
- b. Where do you want to be? In the crowds? The 72. The 12. The 3. Leaning against him at the meal?
- c. Do you pay Him attention? Do you listen carefully to what He says? Do you repent quickly? Do you study him like you do every other thing you actually enjoy? Do you know the value of being close? Have you experienced the cost of being far?